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E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/02/04
TAGS: EFIN PTER PGOV PINR PK AF AE
SUBJECT: UAE FINALIZES JOINT CASH COURIER OPERATIONS

REF: ABU DHABI 39; 09 ABU DHABI 1159 AND PREVIOUS

CLASSIFIED BY: Richard G. Olson, Ambassador; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

¶1. (S/NF) On February 3, Emboffs from DHS, State, Treasury, Justice and GRPO met with key UAE State Security Directorate (SSD) officials and Abu Dhabi and federal customs officials to finalize plans for a February 21-24 bulk cash smuggling training program and a Feb. 28 - March 3 airport and border crossing exercise (Ref B). UAE officials reaffirmed their commitment to the program and promised to immediately identify and confirm UAE participants. DHS/ICE Attaché will visit the Al Ain Airport and Ghwaiifat border crossing with Saudi Arabia with Abu Dhabi Customs Director Saeed Al Muhairi the week of February 7 to survey the operational locations.

¶2. (S/NF) SSD reiterated UAE interest in building upon the success of the February/March program to identify other areas of potential cooperation. DOJ Resident Legal Advisor presented an overview of necessary steps to ensure UAE prosecutors and judges have the capacity to prosecute cash couriers. He highlighted that adequate laws provide the foundation, but training on evidence collection and preparation of cases is also needed. USG agencies offered to review the outbound cash declaration policy drafted by the Central Bank; SSD committed to providing a copy of the draft for USG review. SSD agreed that prosecution is very important and that UAE laws and experience must be developed to ensure success. Participants noted that Ministry of Justice officials will attend the February training program and further judicial/prosecutorial cooperation could then be identified.

OLSON